

**From:** [Shulman, Elise](#)  
**To:** [Waage, Melissa](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NRDC Poll: New Mexico's Latinos want the government to protect water from pollution (corrected link)  
**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2014 10:03:33 AM

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**From:** Elise Shulman [mailto:[eshulman@nrdc.org](mailto:eshulman@nrdc.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2014 10:01 AM  
**To:** Shulman, Elise  
**Subject:** NRDC Poll: New Mexico's Latinos want the government to protect water from pollution (corrected link)

**\*Please note corrected link to polling results at the bottom of the release\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NRDC Poll: New Mexico's Latinos want the government to protect water from pollution**

WASHINGTON (June 23, 2014)—As families prepare to head for the great outdoors this summer, a new poll finds that Latinos in New Mexico overwhelmingly want the federal government to keep our water safe and clean.

The survey of 512 Latinos in the state, conducted last month, showed that 89 percent support nationwide rules to protect wetlands and small streams, including ones that don't flow year-round, that feed into the drinking water supplies of one in three Americans. In New Mexico, the public drinking water supplies for over 280,000 residents depend at least partly on such streams. The federal government recently proposed to restore anti-pollution protections to these small streams and nearby wetlands, whose status had been in legal limbo for more than a decade.

"This poll shows that clean water is important to Latinos, as it is to most other Americans," said Adrianna Quintero, director of Latino outreach for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which commissioned the poll. "We all want the federal government to make sure that polluters don't threaten the health and safety of their families by fouling the water they drink, bathe with, swim in, or use for fishing and boating. It's part of our heritage in New Mexico."

These small streams and wetlands provide crucial water quality benefits for fishing, boating and swimming. Ninety-one percent of those surveyed said it was important that strong clean water safety standards be set at the national level, rather than left up mostly to the states. The telephone and Internet

poll was conducted by Public Policy Polling, a national firm based in North Carolina.

Noting that these small streams and wetlands also capture floodwater, filter pollutants, and help feed groundwater that is used for drinking, farming and other businesses, the poll found that 88 percent of respondents said that these waters should have protection from industry pollution. Additionally, 89 percent said they had “very serious” or “somewhat serious” concerns that the uncertain legal status has endangered these waters by allowing companies to avoid preparing oil spill prevention and response plans or by allowing them to bury streams and wetlands under mining or other industrial waste.

The updated Clean Water Act safeguards were proposed this spring by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They are open for public comment now, and are scheduled to be finalized next year. New Mexicans interested in commenting may do so at [www.waterneedsyou.org](http://www.waterneedsyou.org). However, industry is trying to get Congress to block the proposals, even before they are final.

The poll results can be found here: [http://docs.nrdc.org/water/files/wat\\_14061801d.pdf](http://docs.nrdc.org/water/files/wat_14061801d.pdf)